

Nos. 11-258784 and 11-258785, both filed September 13, 1999 in Japan, do not provide prior art under §102(a) or §102(b) as Japanese applications are normally published 18 months after the date of filing, on or about March 13, 2001, and were published on June 12, 2001 as an unexamined publication (see attached). Because the reference does not qualify as prior art, it cannot be used in a rejection of claims 5-7. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-7, in addition to previously allowed claims 8-14, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Robert A. Miller

Registration No. 32,771

JAO:RAM/eks

Attachment:

Patent Abstracts of Japan 2001-159738

Date: February 23, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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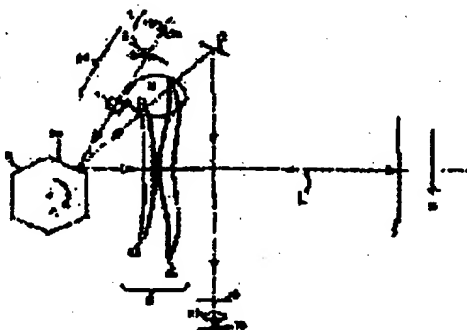
JP

(54) MULTIBEAM SCANNING OPTICAL SYSTEM AND IMAGE FORMING DEVICE USING THE SAME

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a multibeam scanning optical system which can realize high-grade printing at a high speed with a relatively simple constitution, and an image forming device using the same.

SOLUTION: This scanning optical system has an incident optical means which guides plural luminous fluxes emitted from a light source means having plural light emitting parts arranged apart from each other in a main scanning direction to a deflecting means, a scanning optical means which images plural luminous fluxes deflected by the deflecting means onto a surface to be scanned and a synchronism detecting optical means which condenses a part of the plural luminous fluxes deflected by the deflecting means onto a slit surface via a return mirror by a lens section, then guides the luminous fluxes to the synchronism detecting element and controls the timing of the scanning start position on the surface to be scanned by using the signal from the synchronism detecting element. The respective elements are so set as to satisfy a condition equation (A) when the focus misalignment quantity within the main scanning section of the luminous fluxes guided to the synchronism detecting element viewed from the slit is defined as δM and the focus misalignment quantity at each image height on the surface to be scanned as δX .



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